



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Preliminary 2015 Deer Harvest Summary

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) reports a preliminary statewide deer harvest for 2015 of 10,054, or 10,102 including the additional 48 deer from the Quabbin hunt. The youth hunt totaled 143 deer, the preliminary archery season harvest was 4,187, the preliminary shotgun season harvest was 4,091, and the preliminary primitive season harvest was 1,633. The above average temperatures during most of the deer season as well as above average food availability likely played a role in deer movement and hunter effort, potentially explaining the slight drop in harvest in some zones. When food resources are abundant, deer do not have to move as far or as often. A more thorough look at the data over the next few months, along with hunter survey data will provide more details.

Zone	Youth	Archery	Shotgun	Primitive	Total
1	6	80	156	51	293
2	21	139	212	91	463
3	12	153	236	85	486
4N	14	156	200	67	437
4S	7	86	83	34	210
5	7	160	232	115	514
6	0	30	71	23	124
7	2	208	220	73	503
8	12	195	293	111	611
9	14	399	321	163	897
10	13	1,069	540	312	1,934
11	33	1,025	781	334	2,173
12	1	64	100	22	187
13	0	208	317	82	607
14	1	215	329	70	615
Total	143	4,187	4,091	1,633	10,054

[Click here for a wildlife management zone map.](#)

While total harvest by zone can be informative, it doesn't provide the complete picture for monitoring trends in deer density because total harvest is influenced by antlerless deer permit allocations in each zone as well as annual changes in hunter effort, weather, etc. The MassWildlife Deer Project Leader analyzes harvest, biological, and hunter effort data, along with hunter success rates, female versus male harvest, and other factors to manage deer populations in each zone. An analysis of this information is now underway for the annual spring deer management review. A complete harvest summary will be posted on the MassWildlife website shortly after the annual deer review, so please check back in May or June.

Keep an eye on your email inbox for our annual hunter survey. A random sample of valid email addresses in MassFishHunt system will receive a hunter survey by email in February or March.